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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/075,335	02/14/2002	Stephen D. Ginsberg	HO-P02202US2	8704

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EXAMINER

HORLICK, KENNETH R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1637

DATE MAILED: 01/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/075,335

Applicant(s)

GINSBERG ET AL.

Examiner

Kenneth R Horlick

Art Unit

1637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 59-62 and 80-114 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 59-62 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 80-114 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 June 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/19/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 1637

1. As indicated at the end of this Office action, this application is now being handled by a different examiner.
2. Applicant's election without traverse of Group II, claims 80-114, in the reply filed on 07/21/04 is acknowledged.
3. Claims 59-62 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 07/21/04.
4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).
5. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Art Unit: 1637

6. Claims 80-114 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

A) These claims are confusing because "the first strand cDNA" in line 15 of claim 1 lacks proper antecedent basis. Clarification is required.

B) Claim 85 is further confusing because of the language "a least"; it would appear that "at least" is intended. Clarification is required.

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 80-114 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chenchik et al. (US 5,962,272) in view of Van Gelder et al. (US 5,545,522).

Art Unit: 1637

These claims are drawn to a method of RNA amplification, comprising incubating a target strand with a synthesis primer and a terminal continuation oligonucleotide, wherein at least one of the terminal continuation oligonucleotide or the primer comprises a transcriptional promoter sequence; extending the primer to form a first strand cDNA; incubating the first strand cDNA with the terminal continuation oligonucleotide; extending said oligonucleotide to form a second strand cDNA; incubating the cDNA with an RNA polymerase; and transcribing a plurality of RNA transcripts from the cDNA.

Chenchik et al. disclose a method of RNA amplification using a synthesis primer and a terminal continuation oligonucleotide (called a "CapSwitch" oligonucleotide), wherein the amplification product is double-stranded DNA (see especially Fig. 3-1 and columns 2-13). With respect to both said oligonucleotide and primer, Chenchik et al. disclose numerous modifications, including incorporation of RNA polymerase promoter sequences (column 6, lines 6-34 and column 10, lines 20-44).

While Chenchik et al. disclose modification of their basic method using oligonucleotides and/or primers comprising a transcriptional promoter sequence, they do not explicitly disclose the use of these sequences to form a plurality of RNA transcripts from the synthesized double-stranded cDNA. That is, the patent notes that such modifications "...simplify subsequent purification, using and cloning cDNA...".

Van Gelder et al. disclose the incorporation of a transcriptional promoter sequence on a primer for extending a target RNA sequence into a cDNA, wherein said sequence advantageously provides for synthesis of a plurality of RNA transcripts from the cDNA using an RNA polymerase (see Figure 1 and columns 2-10).

Art Unit: 1637

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use the embodiment of Chenchik et al. wherein one or both of the terminal continuation oligonucleotide and the synthesis primer comprise a transcriptional promoter sequence, to form a plurality of RNA transcripts from double-stranded cDNA, because Van Gelder et al. disclosed the advantageous use of such promoter sequences for that purpose. In other words, given the teachings of Van Gelder et al., the claimed method would have been an obvious and suggested extension or application of the method of Chenchik et al., providing the expected benefit of amplified RNA from the cDNA. Regarding the dependent claims, these indisputably relate to well known, conventional methodologies and parameters in nucleic acid manipulation and histology, and thus clearly do not bear on patentability. It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to carry out the claimed methods.

8. Xu et al. (US 2003/0104432), not prior art, discloses an embodiment of the instant claims in Fig. 6. Chenchik et al. (US 5,962,271) is made of record as a reference of interest.

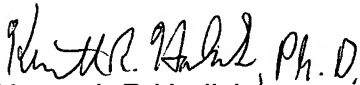
9. No claims are free of the prior art.

Art Unit: 1637

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth R Horlick whose telephone number is 571-272-0784. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 571-272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Kenneth R Horlick, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1637

01/06/05